

Nov 1976

Rough draft of memo from HSS to The Dean

Subject: Continued services of C. Dennis

I request a waiver of mandatory retirement for Dr. Clarence Dennis, Professor, Department of Surgery. This request is justified by the need of the Department for his continued services.

The services of such importance to the Department are as follows:

1. Dr. Dennis is the only surgeon Full Professor aside from the Chairman in the Department of Surgery. Our coverage is such that his absence would cripple the department in terms of the teaching of medical students, and the same is true in regard to the training of surgical residents

2. His many contributions to the surgical literature are known to prospective faculty members and his presence on the faculty adds tremendously to the ability of the Department in the recruitment of staff of high caliber. Among these contributions: basic studies on the origin of appendicitis, use of the closed anastomosis in management of small intestinal obstruction, studies, techniques, and management of idiopathic ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, studies on wound healing, techniques of parenteral nutrition over the past 30 years, studies on physiologic control of hemorrhage, and other areas.

3. Dr. Dennis is in charge of a substantial part of the continuing educational program of the Department, having set up in the past two years programs of 2-day visits of Visiting Professors and of half-day stands of Grand Rounds speakers (schedules attached) In so doing, he has participated in the effort to gain accreditation from the AMA for continuing educational credits for those in attendance, he has strengthened ties through this mechanism with the community of surgeons in Suffolk and Nassau counties. In other words, he is in a position to be vigorously active in such community activity to build ties between the School and surgeons in the surrounding community.

4. Dr. Dennis serves as Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the V.A. Hospital, a function in which he has been successful in strengthening the program and facilities of what serves now as our University Hospital. The Department has the opportunity to keep him in that effective position with great benefit to the School even after our own University Hospital opens.

5. Dr. Dennis has his own research program, which appears about to be funded from VACO, concerning a pattern of therapy of solid cancers developed at Bkln VAH by Dr. H.H. LeVeen, which offers immense promise if he can have the time to bring it to fruition. Dr. Loren Ackerman is a co-investigator.

6. Dr. Dennis serves as Chairman of the Medical School's Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure.

This is a critically important committee in the School, and the affairs of that Committee are proceeding smoothly.

7. The Graduat School and the Medical School are undertaking to set up an M.D.-Ph.D. program. Dr. Dennis has been made Chairman of the Committee appointed to explore the avenues toward establishment of such a program.

8. A certain amount of prestige is brought to the Department by the officerships in professional societies to which Dr. Dennis has been elected. Among these are:

A. He is President of the United States Chapter of the International Society of Surgery.

B. The Nominating Committee of the National Society for Medical Research has proposed Dr. Dennis to be placed in nomination for President in Feb., succeeding Dr. Maurice B. Visscher. Dr. Dennis has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Society since 1966.

C Dr. Dennis has in the past been president of several societies, including:

- i. Society for Vascular Surgery
- ii. Amer. Society for Artificial Internal Organs
- iii. New York Cancer Society
- iv. Society of (University) Surgical Chairmen

- v. New York Surgical Society
- vi. New York Cardiovascular Society
- vii. Brooklyn Surgical Society

D. Other past officerships:

- i. Secretary, Society of University Surgeons
- ii. Governor, American College of Surgeons
- iii. First Vice President, American Surgical Association.

Dr. Dennis served as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center from 1952 to 1972, leaving that post to assume the direction of the Artificial Heart Program of the National Heart and Lung Institute in Bethesda. He holds an Emeritus Professorship from Downstate. In his Chairmanship at Downstate he was instrumental in building the Department of Surgery into a strong department with an excellent international reputation. He headed a Surgical Service which in that time trained 106 finished surgeons, many of whom have made a real mark in the surgical world. A considerable number are surgeons in the community around Stony Brook as well.